

Research and Results for the Nicholas Miller family of Dwight, Illinois

By: Dale C. Maley

Given Info:

Nicholas Miller
1833-1906

Catherine Mailed
1837-1898

Both Buried in Dwight Cemetery

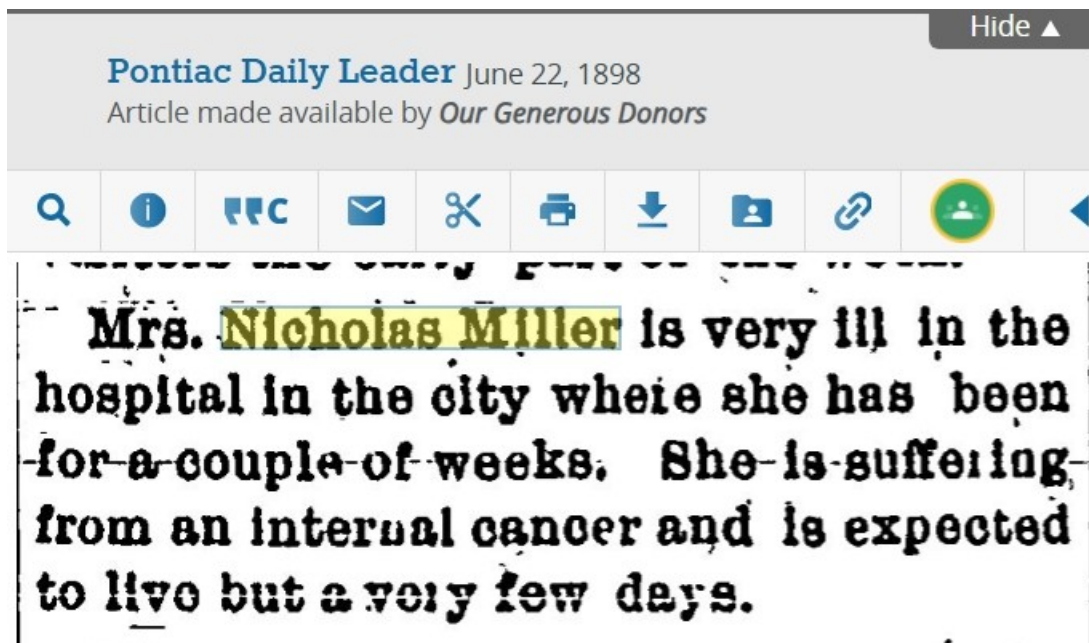
Construct Family Tree in Ancestry.com

I made the family tree.

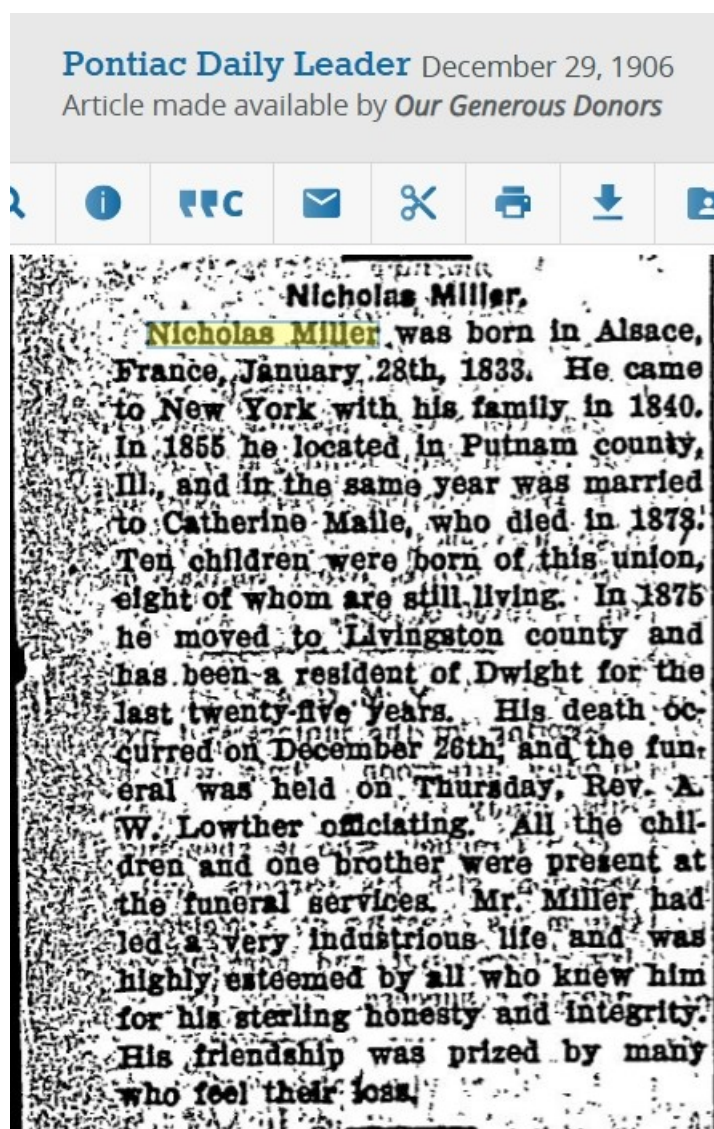
No obits for either of them in Ancestry.com

Pontiac Sentinel and Daily Leader

Available through Pontiac Public Library (must have library card number to access remotely, otherwise you have to go to the library and use their computer)



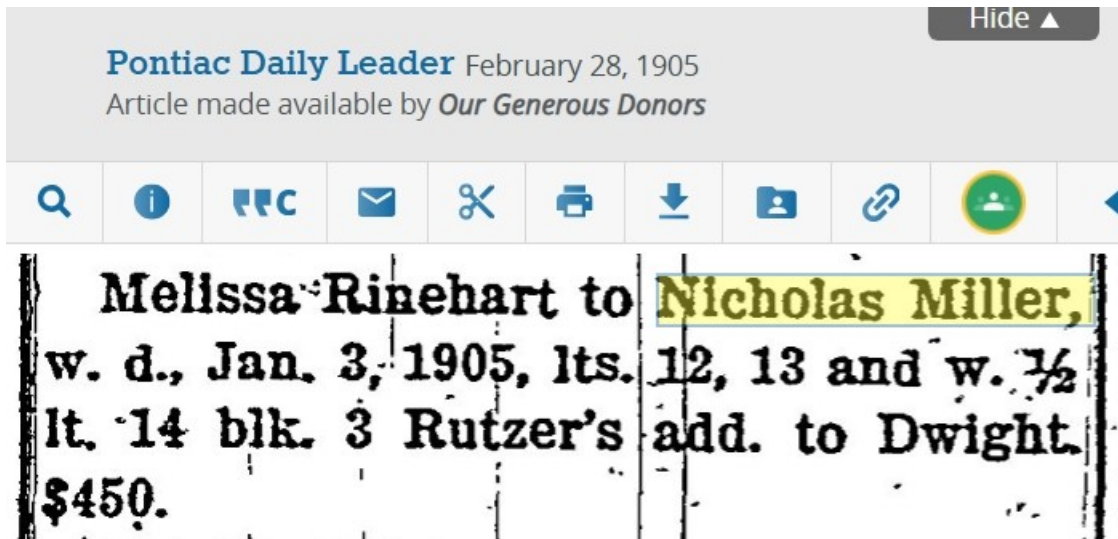
Could not find an obit for her in the Leader. It was a daily newspaper back then, might be able to scroll through each issue and search for an obit?



- 1833 Born in France
- 1840 emigrated to America at age of 7.
- 1855 He was in Putnam County, Illinois, and got married there
- 1875 They moved to livingston county
- 1881 Moved to Dwight (1906 year of obit – 25 years = 1881)

Note: Typo on year of death of wife, obit has 1878, and she died in 1898.

Note: her maiden name was spelled as Maile.



Other than a minor lawsuit, no other sentinel or leader articles about Nicholas Miller.

1878 Liv. Co. History book

No hits on Nicholas Miller

1888 history book

No hits

1900 history book

No hits

1909 vol. 2 history book

No hits

1877 Putnam County History book












No hits

1907 Putnam County History Book

No hits

Any Land Purchases?

<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT General Land Office Records											
PRIVATE CLAIMS											
Search Documents Reference Center Support Pathfinder Shopping Cart											
Search Documents Results List											
Printer Friendly											
Patents											
Image	Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County	
	MW-0721-418	 HOGLE, LEONARD,  MILLER, NICHOLAS	7/15/1853	29840	IL	2nd PM	027N - 011W	SE¼NW¼	33	Iroquois	
	IL1450_473	 MILLER, NICHOLAS	3/10/1843	9596	IL	3rd PM	002S - 011W	SW¼SW¼	36	Monroe	
	MW-1073-223	 UNANGEST, JACOB W,  MILLER, NICHOLAS	8/1/1851	48679	IL	4th PM - 1815 Illinois	002S - 011W	NE¼SW¼	36	Monroe	
							013N - 003W	S½SE¼	12	Mercer	
	MW-1073-223	 UNANGEST, JACOB W,  MILLER, NICHOLAS	8/1/1851	48679	IL	4th PM - 1815 Illinois	013N - 003W	N½NE¼	13	Mercer	

No land purchases in either Putnam or Livingston County.

Look in Dwight newspaper using Newspapers.com

wedding in home of nicholas miller per 11/13/1897 Dwight Herald:

Here's to you, Bradford.

Miller-Reeb.

There was a happy wedding took place at the residence of Nicholas Miller, east of Dwight, Thursday at 12 o'clock, noon. It was that of Miss Hattie Miller and Mr. Ed. Reeb. These young people are well-known in and around Dwight. Mrs. Reeb is a very attractive, sensible young lady, and Mr. Reeb is fortunate in his selection. Mr. Reeb has lived in Dwight all his life, has an excellent reputation and is engaged in the marble business and has worked up a good trade in this and adjoining counties.

The ceremony was performed by Rev. E. F. Wright in the presence of the relatives of the contracting parties.

After the ceremony those present sat down to an elegant dinner. Congratulations were showered upon the happy pair in the shape of many beautiful and useful presents and well wishes for their future welfare and happiness.

The wedding party drove to the Alton depot and Mr. and Mrs. Reeb took the 2:10 p. m. train for Chicago. They will take a short wedding trip and return the first of the week and go to housekeeping in one of the McLane houses on Seminole street.

The STAR AND HERALD joins the many friends in congratulations.

t, jury.
g Mrs. Nicholas Miller who was reported very sick last week was taken to Chicago Tuesday morning for treatment.
r-
s Mrs. John Gutz who has been visi

July 2, 1898, Dwight Herald, obit for Mrs. Miller:

Death of Mrs. Nicholas Miller.

Mrs. Nicholas Miller, the wife of a prominent farmer living one mile east of Dwight, died in Chicago Friday, June 24, having been taken there to be treated for stomach trouble, and upon arriving an operation was found necessary, which was performed some three or four weeks ago, since which time Mrs. Miller has been failing rapidly until last Friday, when the end came.

Mrs. Miller was born in Boston, Mass., in 1837, came west when she was about eighteen years old, was married to Mr. Miller in Granville, Putman county, Ill., came to Dwight in 1875 and has lived here ever since. She was the mother of ten children, eight of whom are still living, three in Iowa, three in Chicago, one in Freedom, Ill., and one in Dwight.

Mrs. Miller was an estimable woman and her loss will be greatly felt by her husband and family, who have the sympathy of the many friends in this community.

The funeral was held from her late home at 10 a. m. on Monday and her body was laid to rest in Oak Lawn cemetery, a great number of her friends following her to the last resting place.

Dr. Foulds Cures the People

**The List Selected for the First Four
Weeks of the January Term of Cir-
cuit Court.**

The following is the list of the grand
jurors selected for the January term of
circuit court, Tuesday, January 17, 1899:

Waldo—John Fear.

Nebraska—John A. Weichman.

Long Point—C. F. Allen.

Newtown—Gabriel Fawley.

Pike—James Nicol.

Rooks Creek—L. H. Tuttle.

Eppards Point—James Craddock.

Pontiac—James Ewing.

Esmen—William Vahldiek.

Nevada—Thomas Haggerty.

Belle Prairie—A. R. Ward.

Avoca—Charles Quest.

Owego—M. C. Snethen.

Odell—Theodore McCormick.

Fayette—J. T. Toohey.

Forrest—L. J. Krack.

Pleasant Ridge—Melvin Miller.

Saunemin—W. W. Dally.

Union—Andrew Eggenberger.

Dwight—Nicholas Miller.

Germanville—John Glabe.

Chatsworth—Gus Keohler.

Charlotte—John Ryan.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilkinson, of Cai
cago, spent Sunday with Mrs. Wilkinson's
father, Nicholas Miller.

W. D. Roeder has a good second hand

Death of Nicholas Miller.

Nicholas Miller was born in Alsace, France, Jan. 28, 1838, and died Dec. 26, 1906, at Dwight, Ill., of bronchitis of the heart, after a short illness of only a few days. He came with his parents to New York City in 1840 when seven years of age. In 1855 he located in Putnam Co., where he was married to Catharine Maule in the same year.

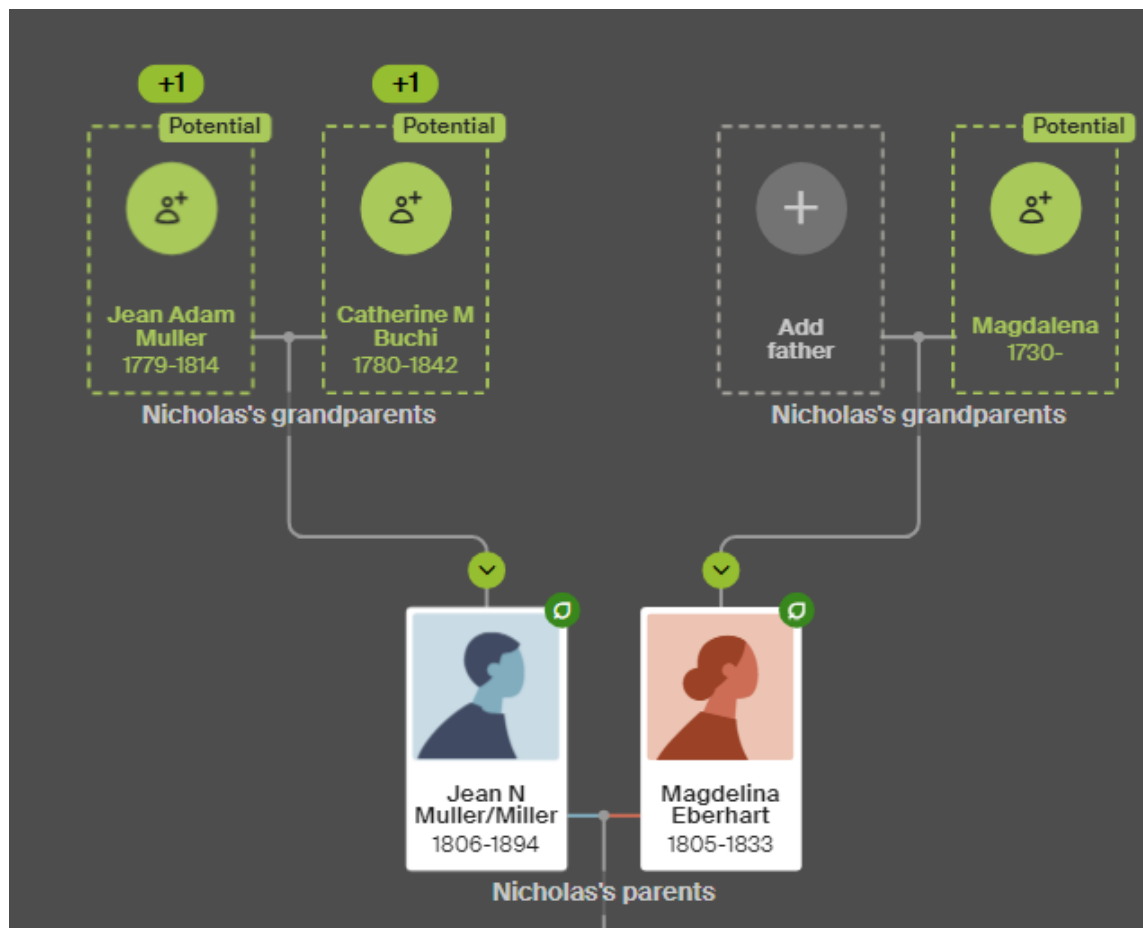
To them ten children were born, two of whom died several years ago.

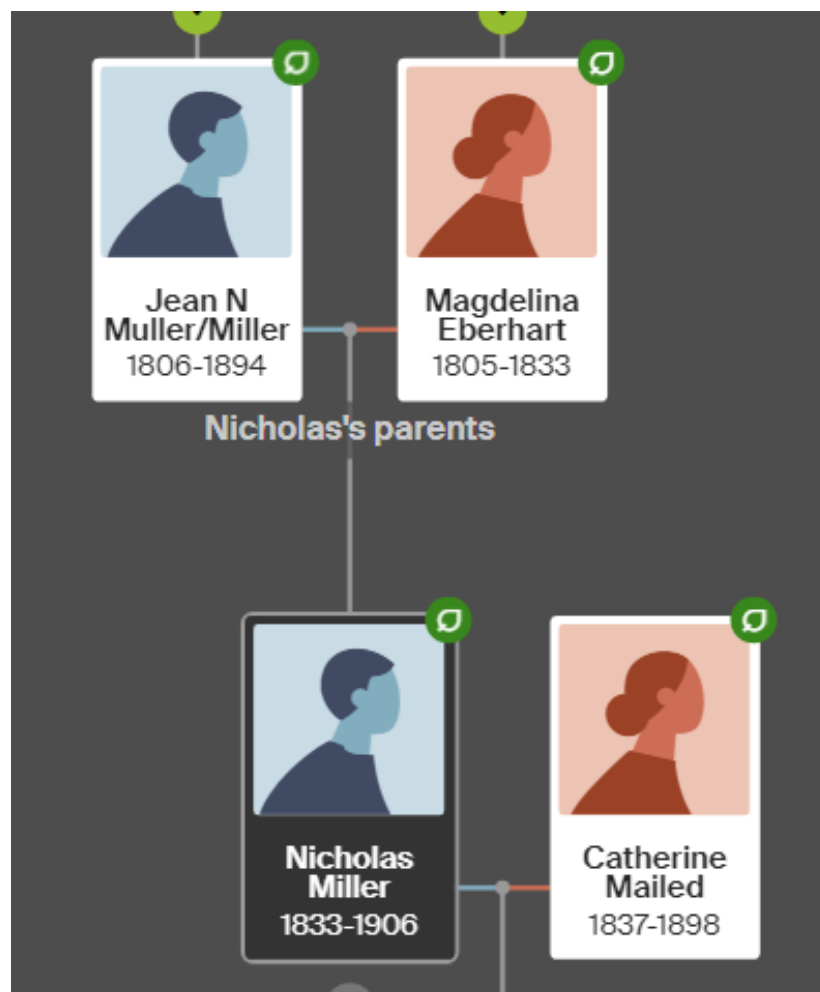
In 1875 Mr. Miller moved to Livingston county where he had resided ever since, and for the last twenty-five years had been a well known citizen of Dwight. Mrs. Miller passed away in 1896.

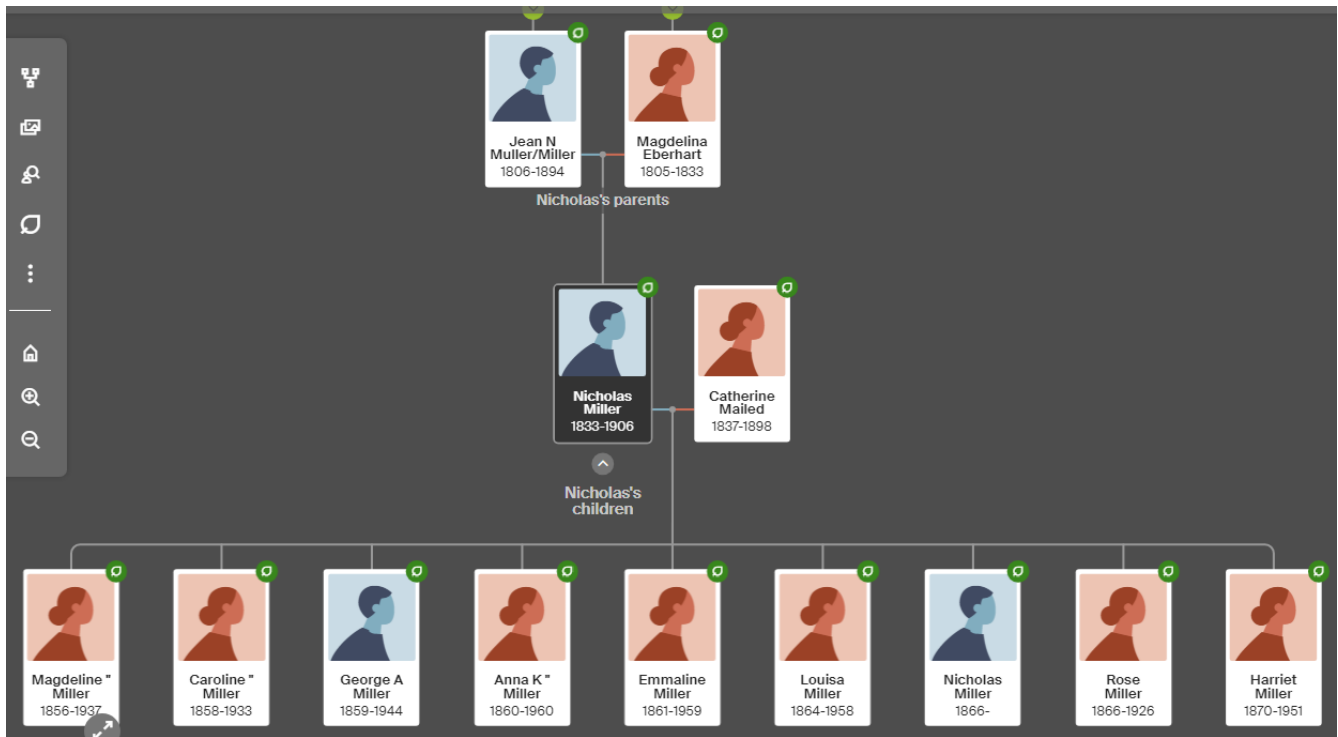
He leaves to mourn his loss seven daughters, one son and one brother, all of whom were present at his funeral.

The funeral services were held Thursday afternoon at two o'clock at his late residence on East Delaware St., Rev. Lowther conducting the services. A large number of old friends and neighbors were present. The body was laid to rest in Oak Lawn cemetery.

Screen Shots of Family Tree from Ancestry.com







Explanation of Land Purchases from Federal Government

Once land was surveyed by the US Government (I believe Livingston County was done in 1837), people could buy land from the government. The official price in the 1830s was \$1.25 and acre, but rose to \$2.50 per acre in the 1850s.

Congress passed one of their Script Acts in 1850. This act awarded free land to primarily veterans of the War of 1812 (veterans from other wars were included also). By 1850, most of these veterans lived on the East Coast states and were middle aged. Very few of them wanted to move, and the Illinois land they gave away was swampland. These veterans sold their rights to the free land to other people, primarily land speculators or farmers who really did want to move to Illinois. They sold these rights at about 10 cents on the dollar of the official federal government land price of \$2.50 per acre.

The Bureau of Land management maintains a database where you can search to see who first bought the land from the federal government. You can search by name of the purchaser, or by specific sections of land.

If a veteran land patent was purchased by someone and used to get the ground, if you click on the link, there is a copy of the land patent with the veteran's name, what war it was, and what unit and commanding officer they had.

If they paid cash, there is no copy of the veteran's land patent involved.

This web site is at:

<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>

Between 1830 and about 1853, very few people settled in Livingston County. It took a couple years for the 1850 Script Act to kick in, and it created a land rush where all the land was claimed between about 1853 and 1860.

For someone to have purchased any land in Livingston County, they would have had to arrive between 1830 and 1860. There are no available records of land sales made after the first person bought it from the government.



Image	Accession	Names ↑	Date	
	MW-0648-325	 BODLEY, JOHN,  JOHNSON, ARTHUR	9/1/1853	2
	MW-0648-326	 BODLEY, JOHN,  HUFFMAN, JOHN	9/1/1853	5
	MW-0784-451	 BODLEY, JOHN,  SHEWMAKER, JOSEPH A	7/1/1854	2
	MW-0784-452	 BODLEY, JOHN,  RUNYAN, WILLIAM	7/1/1854	3
	IL3800 .390	 BODLEY, JOHN	10/15/1855	1

This is the record for my great-great grandfather who bought land northwest of Fairbury.

The P stands for purchaser I believe.

The W stands for Warrant. In the first purchase, my ancestor purchased the land warrant from veteran Arthur Johnson.

On the last transaction, my ancestor paid cash for the land. He did not use a veteran warrant.

Summary

This is all the info I found for this genealogical search.

Dale C. Maley
President – Livingston County Historical Society
January 15, 2025